

VZCZCXRO3301
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHKUK RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHROV
DE RUEHRH #0007 0021550
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 021550Z JAN 08
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7324
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 4674
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH IMMEDIATE 9329

S E C R E T RIYADH 000007

SIPDIS
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 01/01/2018
TAGS CIA, KGCC, PGOV, PHUM, PINR, PK, PREL, PTER, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN
REF: SECSTATE 170928

Classified By: Ambassador Ford Fraker for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (S) SUMMARY. The Ambassador delivered reftel demarche on the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal.
2. (S) The Ambassador delivered the demarche contained in reftel regarding Benazir Bhutto's assassination to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal.
3. (S) Commenting on the Bhutto assassination, Prince Saud observed that he had been afraid of just such an outcome ever since the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was assassinated.
4. (S) The Foreign Minister stated that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is a force for stability, in his opinion. He called Sharif a leader.
5. (S) These views stand in marked contrast to those of Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel al-Jubeir. In a December 31 conversation with the DCM, the Ambassador stated that the Foreign Minister's views are more realistic.
6. (S) COMMENT. The contrast between the views of the Foreign Minister and Ambassador al-Jubeir are worth noting, since they probably indicate a shift in Saudi policy.